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Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 (ISO) W
---------- 100722
O 111800Z APR 75
FM AMEMBASSY KINGSTON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7372

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 3 KINGSTON 1375/1

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS1
TAGS: PFOR, US, JM
SUBJECT: AMBASSADOR'S MEETING WITH PM MANLEY

REF: KINGSTON 1181

1. I MET WITH PRIME MINISTER MANLEY AT HIS REQUEST (REFTEL) LATE AFTERNOON APRIL 9. OTHERS PRESENT WERE ROBERT MASON, PERM SEC PM'S OFFICE AND GORDON WELLS, PERM SEC EXTERNAL AFFAIRS. AFTER GENERAL DISCUSSION BAUXITE AGREEMENT CONCLUDED BETWEEN GOJ AND REYNOLDS (SEPTEL) PM RAISED FOLLOWING SUBJECTS IN CHRONOLOGICAL ORDER.

2. MANLEY VISIT TO WASHINGTON - PM STATED THAT HE INTERPRETED OUR FAILURE TO RESPOND FAVORABLY AS A "DELIBERATE SLAP IN THE FACE" AND SAID THAT IF THIS WERE THE CASE IT HAD BROUGHT JAMAICAN-US RELATIONS TO AN ALL-TIME LOW. HE REALIZED THAT JAMAICA WAS A COMPARATIVELY UNIMPORTANT COUNTRY BUT FELT IT DID HAVE SOMETHING TO CONTRIBUTE AND WISHED TO DO SO HE CONSIDERED THE LINKAGE BETWEEN HIS VISIT AND PROGRESS IN THE BAUXITE NEGOTIATIONS TO BE A DELIBERATE AFFRONT. I REPLIED THAT THIS WAS IN NO WAY INTENDED BUT THAT THE ORIGINAL JANUARY TIME FRAME SUGGESTED BY HIM FOR THE VISIT HAD POSED REAL PROBLEMS IN TERMS OF THE PRESIDENT'S AND THE SECRETARY'S SCHEDULES AT THAT TIME. RECALLING THE PRIME MINISTER'S MEETING WITH THE SECRETARY LAST YEAR, I REMINDED HIM THAT HE HAD PERSONALLY REQUESTED THAT THE USG NOT BECOME INVOLVED IN THE BAUXITE NEGOTIATIONS,
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(WHICH HE AGREED WAS THE CASE) AND THAT A MEETING WITHIN THE

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TIME FRAME ORIGINALLY REQUESTED WOULD INEVITABLY HAVE HAD TO RAISE THE UNRESOLVED BAUXITE ISSUE. FURTHERMORE, MEETINGS WITH THE PRESIDENT AND THE SECRETARY BEFORE THE BAUXITE ISSUE HAD BEEN RESOLVED WOULD HAVE SUBJECTED THEM TO STRONG AND CONFLICTING PRESSURES IN THE US AND POSSIBLY EVEN EMBARRASSMENT. I CONCLUDED THE SUBJECT STATING THAT THE POSSIBILITY OF A VISIT MIGHT WELL BE RECONSIDERED. HE REPLIED THAT THE VISIT WAS IMMATERIAL (THOUGH I GATHERED HE WOULD STILL LIKE TO MAKE ONE) COMPARED TO THE MAJOR QUESTION OF OUR BASIC RELATIONSHIP, AND THAT WAS WHY HE HAD RAISED THE QUESTION.

2. ANTI-GOVERNMENT ACTIVITIES OF US MISSIONARIES - THE PM STATED THAT CERTAIN FUNDAMENTALIST US MISSIONARIES ON THE ISLAND WERE ACTIVELY DEFAMING THE GOJ AND HIMSELF AS COMMUNIST. HE STATED THAT HE WAS DEEPLY TROUBLED BY THE MISSIONARIES' ACTIVITIES BUT MADE A POINT OF EMPHASIZING THAT HE DID NOT BELIEVE THAT THEY WERE IN ANY WAY TIED TO THE CIA. I REPLIED THAT I WAS DISTURBED TO HEAR THIS AND IF THE GOJ FURNISHED PROOF OF THESE ACTIVITIES, I WOULD TRY AND DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT. PM SAID HE WOULD APPRECIATE MY ASSISTANCE AND WOULD BE PROVIDING SWORN AFFADAVITS.

3. BAUXITE/ALUMINUM STOCKPILE - THE PM RHETORICALLY ASKED WHY A NEW BAUXITE/ALUMINUM STOCKPILE ARRANGEMENT COULD NOT BE WORKED OUT. HE FELT THAT THE STOKPILE IN THE PAST HAD PROVIDED A VALUABLE BALANCING MECHANISM WHICH SMOOTHED OUT PRICE FLUCTUATIONS. HE REFERRED TO A RECENT REPORT BY THE US CONPTROLLER GENERAL ON THE SUBJECT AND REQUESTED MR. MASON TO SUPPLY ME A COPY FOR STUDY.

4. LOS - THE PM INQUIRED WHETHER THE USG COULD BE MORE SUPPORTIVE, IF ONLY "EVER SO SLIGHTLY", OF THE GOJ'S BID TO HAVE THE SEABED AUTHORITY SITED IN KINGSTON. I REPLIED THAT AS THE EMBASSY HAD INFORMED THE GOJ, WE SUPPORTED THE GOJ APPLICATION BUT WANTED TO SEE GREATER PROGRESS ACHIEVED TOWARD THE SUBSTANTIVE CONCLUSION OF THE TREATY BEFORE PUBLICLY DECLARING OUR SUPPORT. WHEN I CONFIDENTIAL

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ASKED WHETHER THERE WERE ANY OTHER SERIOUS CONTENDERS AND WHAT HE THOUGH JAMAICA'S CHANCES WERE, HE REPLIED THAT MALTA WAS THE ONLY OTHER RIVAL AND CHANCES OF THE SEABED AUTHORITY BEING LOCATED IN KINGSTON WERE GOOD.

5. PL-480 TITLE I - PM SAID HE WAS PLEASED THAT AN FY-75 AGREEMENT HAD BEEN APPROVED AND ASKED

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ABOUT THE PROSPECTS FOR AN FY-76 AGREEMENT. I
SAID I SHARED HIS ASTISFACTION AND WAS PARTICULARLY
PLEASED THAT DESITE THE SEVERE SHORTAGES THIS YEAR,
WE WERE ABLE TO GAIN APPROVALOF THE PROGRAM ON
HUMANITARIAN GROUNDS. AS FOR AN FY-76 AGREEMENT,
I SUGGESTED THAT APPLICATION ONLY BE MADE AFTER
THE FY-75 PROGRAM WAS FINALIZED. MR. MASON CONFIRMED
THAT THIS WAS THE WAY GOJ WISHED TO PROCEED.

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EXDIS

6. PROBLEMS INVOLVED IN MAJOR CAPITAL PROJECTS - THE
PM SAID THAT HE FORESAW MAJOR PROBLEMS DEVELOPING IN
CY-76 IN CONNECTION WITH SEVERAL LARGE CAPITAL
PROJECTS WHICH HE ANTICIPATES WOULD BE GETTING
UNDERWAY. HE SPECIFICALLY MENTIONED THE NEW
ALUMINA COMPLEX WHICH WOULD INVOLVE THE GOJ,
MEXICO, VENEZUELA, KAISER, AND REYNOLDS. ADDITIONALLY,
NEGOTIATIONS ON THE LUANA REFINERY WERE PROGRESSING
RAPIDLY, AND IT WAS ONE OF THE BSIC TOPICS HE
WOULD BE DISCUSSING IN CARACAS WITH PRESIDENT PEREZ.
I ASKED IF HE HAD RECENT INFORMATION ABOUT REPORTS
THAT HOWELL REFINING CO. OF TEXAS WAS LOOKING
INTO THE POSSIBLE CONSTRUCTION OF A REFINERY IN
JAMAICA, BUT HE EVADED THE QUESTION, COMMENTING
THAT HE UNDERSTOOD THAT THEY HAD BEEN ON THE ISLAND
RECENTLY, BUT HE HAD NO DETAILS CONCERNING THEIR
DISCUSSIONS.

7. THE CONSTRUCTION BOOM IN JAMAICA IN CY-76 WHEN
THESE PROJECTS WERE STARTED WOULD UNDERLINE THE

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SHORTAGE OF SKILLED LOCAL WORKERS, ESPECIALLY IN
THE BUILDING TRADES. THE SKILLED LABOR WHICH EXISTS
HAS ALREADY BEEN DRAWN INTO THE KINGSTON AREA, AND
THERE IS NOW A DEARTH IN THE COUNTRYSIDE. HE WANTED
TO KNOW WHETHER THERE WAS ANY POSSIBILITY THAT THE
USG WOULD BE WILLING TO HELP DEVISE AND SUPPORT A
SKILL TRAINING PROGRAM. HIS BROTHER DOUGLAS
(MINISTER OF STATE FOR YOUTH AND COMMUNITY AFFAIRS)
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HAS BEEN IMPRESSED BY TECHNIQUES AND TRAINING AIDS
DEVELOPED IN THE US, ESPECIALLY MOBILE TRAINING
UNITS (DOUGLAS MANLEY AND SEVERAL OTHER GOJ OFFICIALS
VISITED REVEREND SULLIVAN'S OPPORTUNITIES INDUSTRIALIZATION
CENTER INTERNATIONAL PROJECT IN PHILADELPHIA IN LATE
1972). I REPLIED THAT AS THE PRIME MINISTER KNEW,
AID FUNDS WERE EXTREMELY TIGHT. THE PM HAD SEEN
WHAT HAPPENED TO THE PRESIDENT'S AID BILL, AND I
WONDERED WHETHER THE EDUCATION SECTOR LOAN MIGHT
PROVIDE THE TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES HE ENVISAGED.
THE PM SAID NO, THAT HE WAS SPECIFICALLY THINKING
OF THE MOBILE TRAINING APPROACH MENTIONED BY HIS BROTHER.
I CONCLUDED THE SUBJECT BY SAYING THAT I OBVIOUSLY
COULD NOT MAY ANY COMMITMENTS BUT WE WOULD BE WILLING
TO DISCUSS IT IN GREATER DETAIL WITH HIS BROTHER.

8. IN DISCUSSING THE IMPENDING CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITY,
THE PM WAXED ECSTATIC ABOUT THE GROWING REGIONAL
COOPERATION IN THE CARIBBEAN. HE FELT THAT THE
COOPERATION OF MEXICO, VENEZUELA AND JAMAICA, ALONG
WITH THE GREAT MULTI-NATIONAL COPORATIONS LIKE
KAISER AND/OR REYNOLDS OR ALCAN IN THE CONSTRUCTION
OF THE ALUMINA PLANT IN JAMAICA AND THE ALUMINUM
SMELTER IN MEXICO WAS AN EXAMPLE OF THE COLLA-
BORATION HE FELT TO BE THE WAVE OF THE FUTURE.
HE COMMENTED THAT WHILE IT HAD NOT BEEN DETERMINED
WHICH OF THE COMPANIES WOULD PARTICIPATE IN THE
MEXICO SMELTER, HE THOUGHT THAT KAISER WOULD DO THE
ENGINEERING AND POSSIBLY BE JOINED BY REYNOLDS AND/OR ALCAN.

9. COMMONWEALTH MEETING - MANLEY HAVING GONE THROUGH
THE LIST OF TOPICES HE APPARENTLY WISHED TO RAISE,
I ASKED WHAT HE FORESAW COMING OUT OF THE COMMONWEALTH
MEETING LATER THIS MONTH. MANLEY SAID THAT ECONOMIC
ISSUES SHOULD DOMINATE THE MEETING BUT MIGHT
GET SIDETRACKED DEPENDING ON HOW MUCH TIME WAS DEVOTED
TO DISCUSSION OF THE URGENT SOUTHERN AFRICAN ISSUES.
HE AND HIS GOVERNMENT WERE COMMITTED ON THE SOUTHERN
AFRICAN ISSUES AND WOULD GIVE THEM PRECIDENCE, YET
HOPED THERE WOULD BE AMPLE TIME LEFT FOR CONSIDERATION

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OF ECONOMIC ISSUES. IT WAS HIS VIEW THAT THE THIRD WORLD
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HAD NO CHOICE BUT TO DEVELOP A CLOSE POLITICAL
AFFILIATION AND IDENTITY OF VIEW WHICH WOULD GIVE
THEM THE STRENGTH TO DEAL ON A BASIS OF EQUALITY
WITH THE DEVELOPED WORLD ON ECONOMIC MATTERS. THE
INDIVIDUAL LEADERS OF THE DEVELOPED WORLD WOULD NOT
GIVEN ANYTHING SUBSTANTIVE AWAY ON THEIR OWN. THIS
RESTRAINT WAS INHERENT IN THEIR POLITICAL SYSTEMS.
THE ONLY WAY THE LDC'S COULD REALLY OBTAIN SATIS-
FACTORY REALIGNMENT ON ECONOMIC MATTERS WAS BY
DEALING ON A BLOC-TO-BLOC BASIS WITH THE DEVELOPED
WORLD. HE WAS ENCOURAGED BY THE RESULTS OF THE
ACP/EEC NEGOTIATIONS AND BELIEVED IT UNDERLINED HIS POINT.

10. I RESPONDED THAT THERE WERE TWO POINTS I WANTED
TO MAKE WITH REGARD TO THE EVOLUTION OF BLOCK POLITICS.
A. THAT THE USG NOTED WITH SERIOUS CONCERN
THAT ON MATTERS THAT WERE NOT OF GREAT IMPORTANCE
TO THE GOJ IT HAD VOTED IN UN FORUMS AGAINST THE
US POSITION EVEN AFTER STRONG REPRESENTATION ON
OUR PART. AT THIS POINT WELLS INTERJECTED THAT THE
GOJ WAS NOT A PARTY TO STEAMROLLR TACTICS AND
BLOC VOTING, TO WHICH THE PM ADDED THAT THE GOJ'S
VOTES WERE DETERMINED BY PRINCIPLE. THEY BOTH THEN
ADMITTED THAT IT WAS IMPORTANT FOR JAMAIC TO
PRESERVE ITS CREDENTIALS WITH ITS THIRD WORLD ALLIES
IF JAMAICA WAS TO RETAIN THEIR SUPPORT ON ECONOMIC
ISSUES WHICH JAMAICA CONSIDERED OF GREAT IMPORTANCE.
I COMMENTED THAT WE COULD ACCEPT VOTES BASED ON
PRINCIPLE AND HOPED THAT TRUE PRINCIPLE WOULD GUIDE
THE POSITIONS THE GOJ TOOK IN INTERNATIONAL FORUMS
IN THE FUTURE.

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EXDIS

B. MY SECOND POINT WAS THAT I THOUGHT THAT THE IMBALANCE IN THEWORLD ECONOMIC SITUATION HAD LED THE DC'S TO LOOK HARD AT THE PROBLEMS OF THE LDC'S AND THAT THERE WAS A REAL DESIRE ON THE PART OF MY GOVERNMENT AND OTHER DC'S TO EXAMINE IN DETAIL THE FULL RANGE OF ECONOMIC ISSUES WHICH JOINTLY CONFRONTED US. I FELT THAT THE COMPLEXITIES OF THE SUBJECT DICTATED THAT WE APPROACH OUR PROBLEMS IN A SERIOUS, ON-POLEMICAL, AND METHODICAL FASHION. THIS KIND OF APPROACH WOULD PRODUCE THE GREATEST RESULTS, AND I SINCERELY HOPED THAT IT WOULD BE THE PATH JAMAICA WOULD FOLLOW RATHER THAN CONFRONTATION.

11. JAMAICAN AMBASSADOR TO US - RESPONDING TO MY INQUIRY, THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THAT THE SELECTION OF A NEW AMBASSADOR TO THE UNITED STATES WAS THE SUBJECT OF GREAT INTEREST AND CONCERN TO HIS GOVERNMENT. HE WAS ACUTELY AWARE OF THE IMPORTANCE OF THIS POSITION AND ALTHOUGH IT MIGHT TAKE THE GOJ A WHILE TO SETTLE ON THE RIGHT MAN, THEY WERE ACTIVELY SEARCHING AND ANY DELAY INVOLVED SHOULD NOT BE CONSTRUED AS THE CREATIONS OF A DELIBERATE VACANCY.

COMMENT: THIS MEETING AT THE REQUEST OF THE PM WAS THE FINAL ONE IN A SERIES OF MEETINGS WITH MINISTERS I HAD INSTIGATED IN AN EFFORT TO RESTORE SOME SORT OF MEANINGFUL DIALOGUE WITH THE GOJ WHICH WAS LARGELY IN SUSPENSION "PENDING SUBSTANTIAL PROGRESS
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IN THE BAUXITE NEGOTIATIONS." WHILE THE TONE OF THE MEETING WAS FRIENDLY AND RELAXED (THE PRIME MINISTER HAS NEVER WITH ME GONE OFF ON ONE OF HIS WELL-ADVERTISED TIRADES) THE RATHER STRANGE CONTENT MIX GIVES PAUSE AS WELL AS THE APPROACH ON SEVERAL OF THE DISCUSSION SUBJECTS. IT APPEARS TO ME THAT THE PM HAS NOT YET DETERMINED ON THE POLICY HE NOW PLANS TO FOLLOW WITH THE U.S. ON THE ONE HAND, HE SEEMS TO INDICATE THAT HE IS READY TO GET TOUGH IF THAT IS THE WAY WE WANT TO PLAY IT. ON THE OTHER

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HAND, HE APPEARS TO WANT TO BE CONCILIARTORY AND
COOPERATIVE IF WE WILL LET HIM. IT IS POSSIBLE
WITH ANY SUCH MULTI-FACETED AND ERRATIC CHARACTER,
GIVEN THE PRESSURES OF HIS DOMESTIC AND OREIGN
POLICITCS, THAT HE WILL BE MORE AT HOME IN THE LONG
RUN WITH A DICHOTOMY. I BELIEVE WE CAN EXPECT A
SEE-SAW RELATIONSHIP WITHOUT MUCH CONTROL ON OUR
PART OF THE ANGLE OF THE PLANK AT ANY PARTICULAR MOMENT.
HOWEVER, UNLESS WE ARE TO GIVE A PERMANENT
TILT TO OUR END ON THE DOWNSIDE, I THINK WE SHOULD
REVIEW IMMEDIATELY OUR LOOSELY-DEFINED POLICY OF
"SUBSTANTIAL PROGRESS IN THE BAUXITE NEGOTIATIONS"
AS A SINE QUA NON ON SUBSTANTIVE MATTERS ESPECIALLY
NOW THAT AN AGREEMENT HAS BEEN REACHED WITH REYNOLDS.
IT IS NOW CLEAR THIS POLICY SERVES NO USEFUL PURPOSE,
INDEED IF IT EVER DID. ON BALANCE, IT SEEMS LIKELY
WE WILL BE DEALING WITH MANLEY AND HIS PARTY FOR THE
NEXT SEVEN YEARS, AND I THINK WE MUST MOVE NOW OR
LOSE OUR OPTIONS WITH HIM IF WE HAVE NOT DONE SO
ALREADY.
GERARD

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